

To the Members of the California State Senate:

I am signing Senate Bill 1710 because it would extend the California Indian Education Center program, which is scheduled to sunset on January 1, 2007.

However, while this bill is intended to address problems identified in a recent Bureau of State Audits report on the California Indian Education Center Program, much of the bill is unnecessary and would create new, ongoing General Fund costs at a time when the structural budget deficit has not been fully resolved. Furthermore, the bill would create Proposition 98 General Fund cost pressures to increase funding for existing California American Indian centers and expand the number of centers throughout the state.

In addition, the bill would shift substantial authority to approve new Indian Education Centers from the State Board of Education to the State Department of Education and would authorize the State Department of Education to determine the funding level for each center without input from the Administration and Legislature during the annual budget process.

For these reasons, I am signing this bill with the expectation that the author will adopt cleanup legislation to remove all of these provisions with the exception of those which would extend the sunset date and address acceptable audit findings.

Sincerely,

Arnold Schwarzenegger